Tonari ni (Next to You)

By Basso

Chapter 3

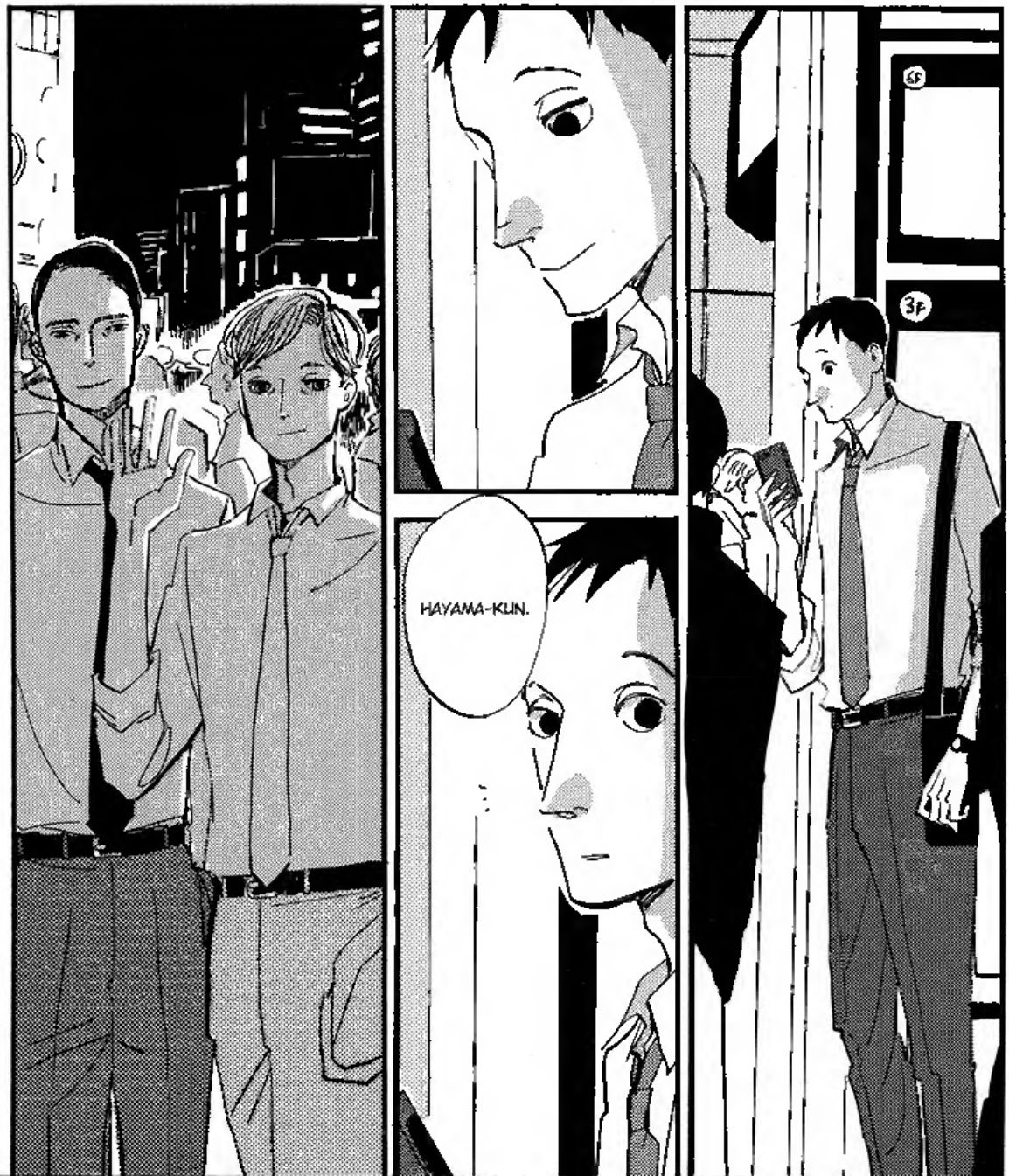
Scanner: Oyajidesu
Cleaner: Crystal Espers
Translator: Oyajidesu
Typesetter: Marimo

Naono Holics
naonoholics.tumblr.com
X
Oyajidesukara
oyajidesukara.tumblr.com

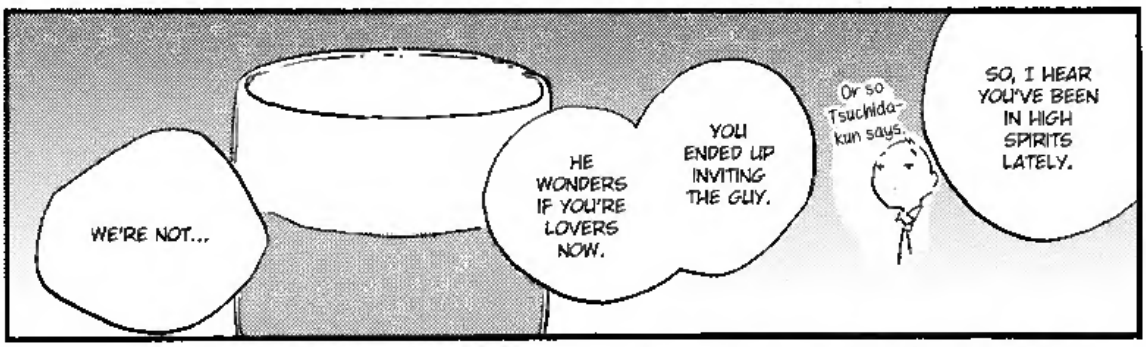
Episode 3

tonari ni

東京メトロ
Tokyo Metro
新宿三丁目駅
Shinjuku-sanchōme Sta.
50

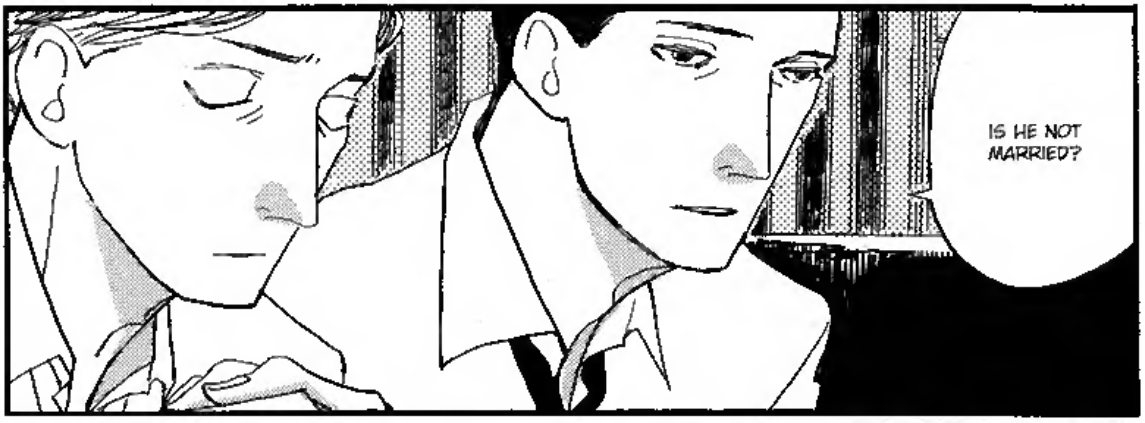

6F
3F
HAYAMA-KUN.

DID YOU TWO EXCHANGE LINE?
WOW.
YOU'VE GROWN CLOSE WITH THE GUY WHO MADE YOU REALIZE IT, HUH.

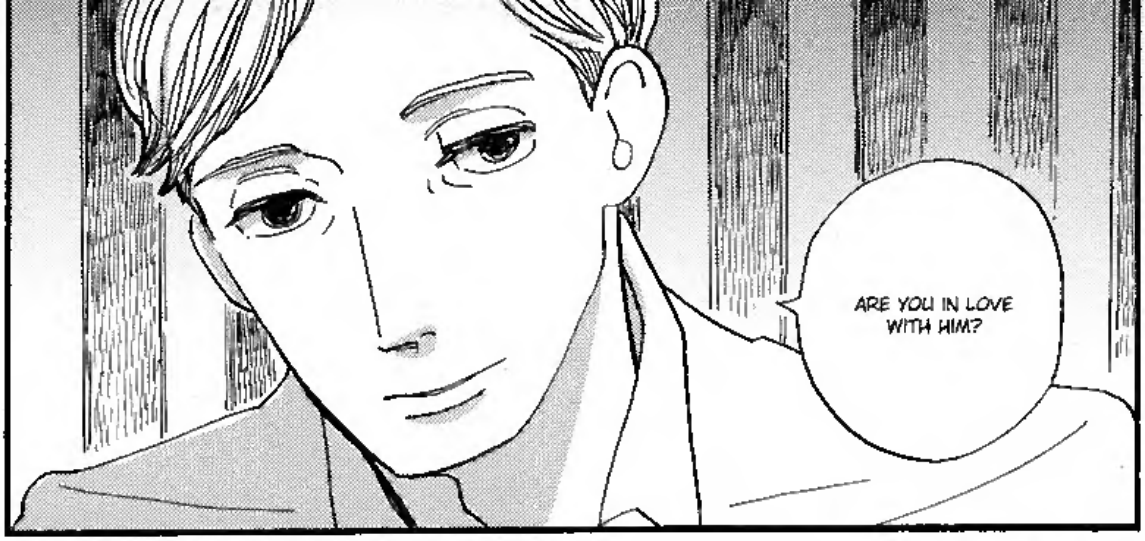

SO, I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN IN HIGH SPIRITS LATELY.
Or so Tsuchida-kun says.
YOU ENDED UP INVITING THE GUY.
HE WONDERS IF YOU'RE LOVERS NOW.
WE'RE NOT...

HE TURNS TO ME FOR BETTING TICKETS.
OH, DOES HE?

WHAT A NICE GUY.
THAT HE IS.
HE HAD TO BUY THAT FOR YOU, DIDN'T HE?
I THINK SO, TOO.....
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN SMILING AT YOUR PHONE EARLIER?
HE'S BEEN SENDING ME A BUNCH OF STAMPS. IT THREW ME A BIT SINCE...
IT'S ALL HORSES.


IS HE NOT MARRIED?

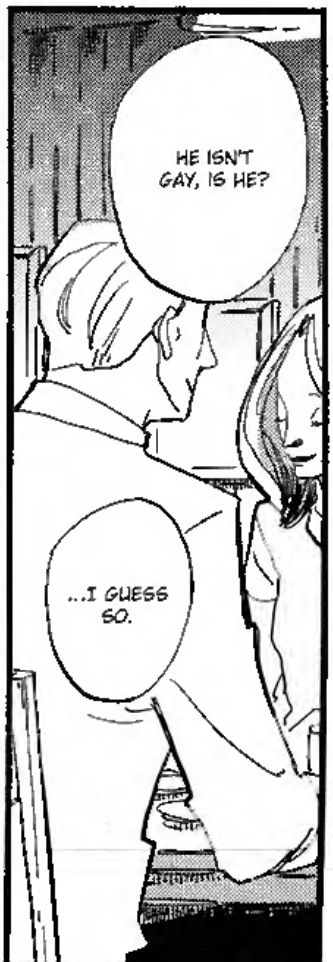
GOOD FOR YOU.
YOU HEARD FROM HIM?
NEVER WAS.


ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH HIM?

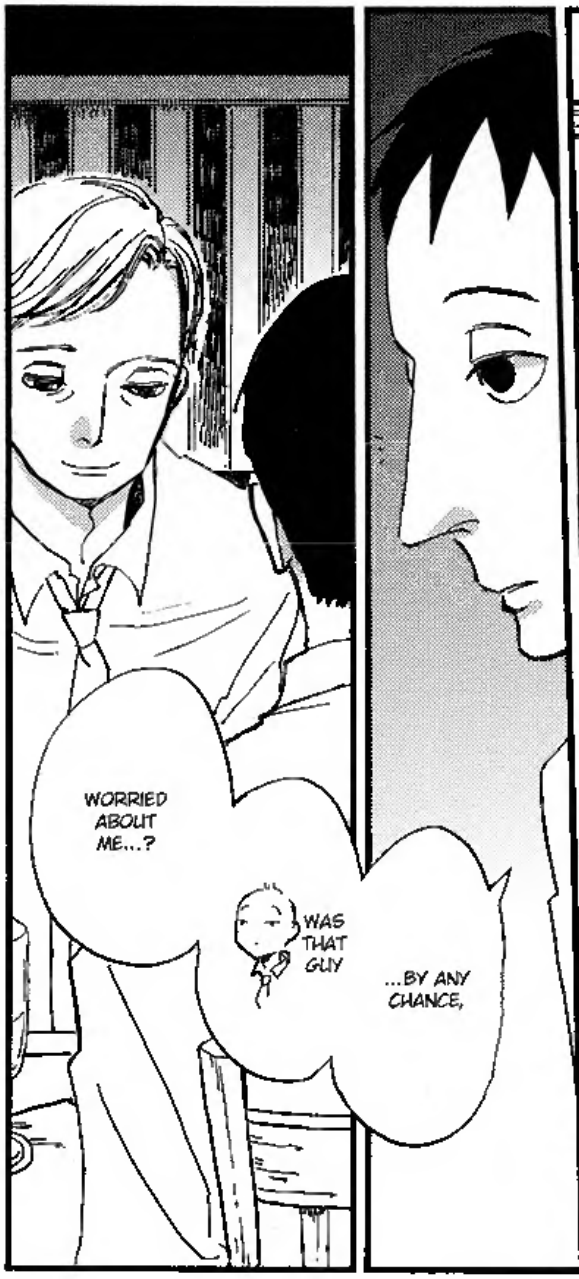
...YES.

I DON'T WANT TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS OR ANYTHING.....
IT'S ENOUGH TO BE WITH HIM?

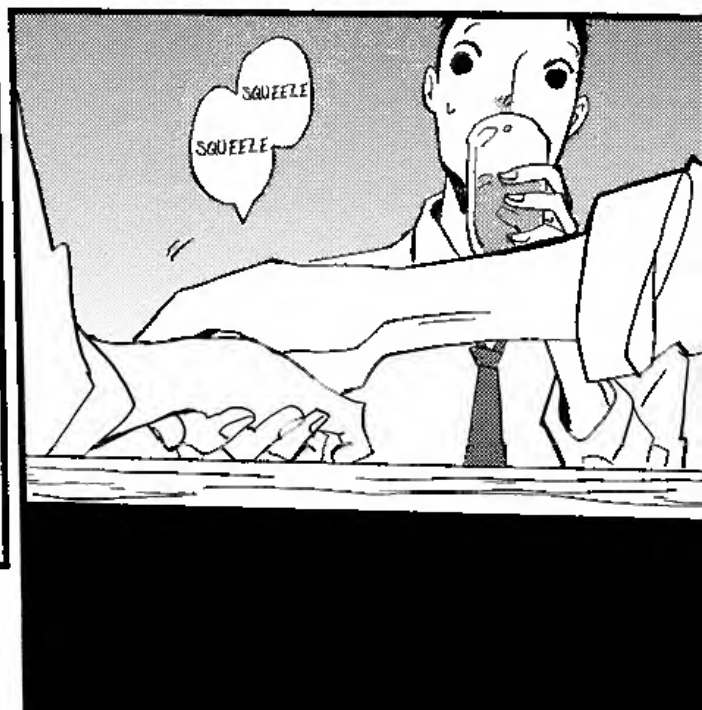
NOW... I'M ACTING LIKE SOME LOVE-SICK MIDDLE SCHOOLER.


HE ISN'T GAY, IS HE?
...I GUESS SO.

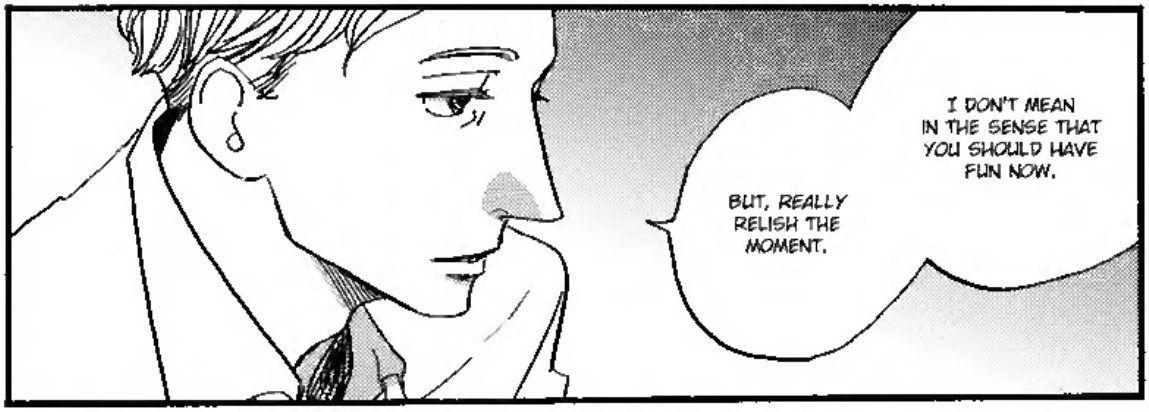
...YES.


WORRIED ABOUT ME...?
WAS THAT GUY
...BY ANY CHANCE,

THAT'S JUST FOR NOW, RIGHT?
BAM


SQUEEZE
SQUEEZE

PERSONALLY, I THINK IT'S GOOD TO ENJOY THE MOMENT.
PERHAPS THE ENJOYMENT YOU'RE HAVING IS ENOUGH TO WORRY HIM?
.....
...HE SAID YOU DON'T JUST FALL IN... YOU SINK TO THE VERY BOTTOM.


I DON'T MEAN IN THE SENSE THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE FUN NOW.
BUT, REALLY RELISH THE MOMENT.

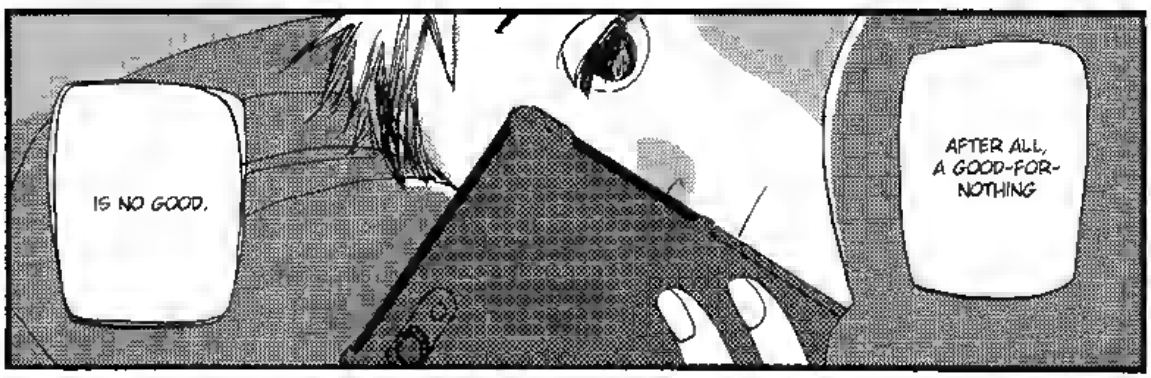
YOU'RE YOUNG.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A HEARTBREAK EVENTUALLY.

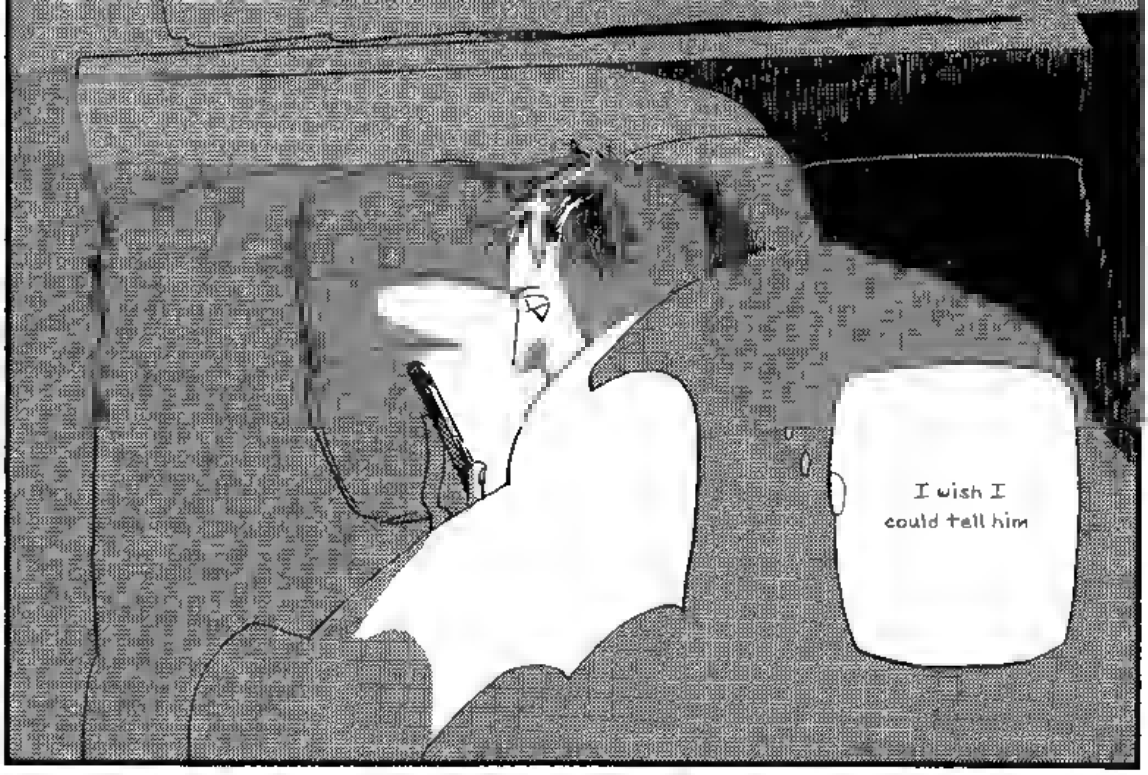
AND WHEN YOU'RE DOWN,
YOU LET IT BE.
AS YOU GET OLDER,
I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK
AND KNOW THAT YOU TRULY ENJOYED IT.
THE OTHER DAY, YOU TALKED TO ME ABOUT YOUR MALE SEMPAI FROM COLLEGE.

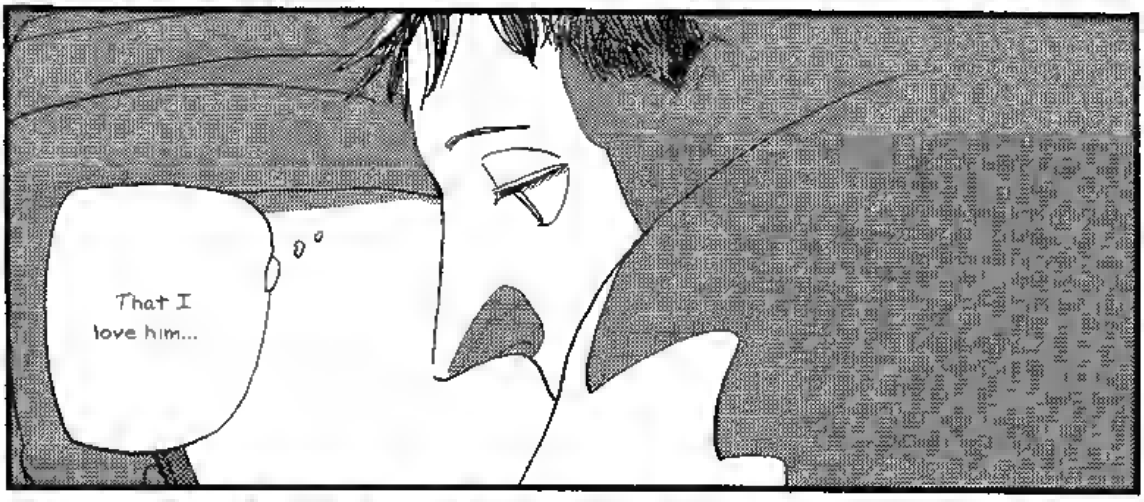
YOU SAID YOU PROBABLY LIKED HIM.
YOU DIDN'T QUESTION IT THAT TIME,
BUT NOW, DO YOU THINK IT WAS ROMANTIC LOVE?

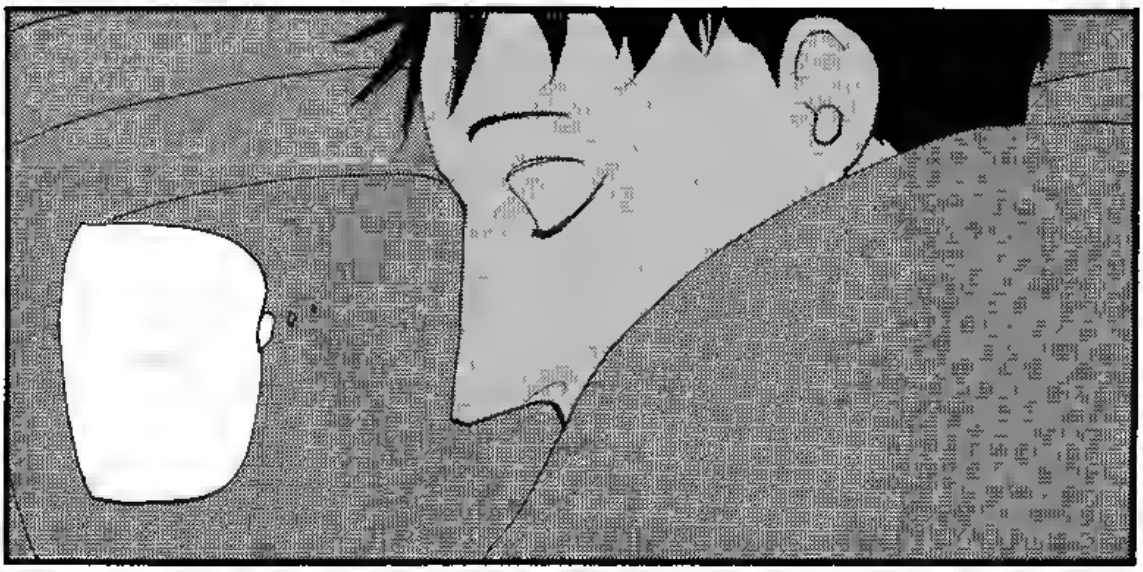
...AND I'M AT THE POINT
WHERE I CHOOSE TO MOVE BEYOND THIS OR NOT, RIGHT?
.....
I THINK SO.
YOU'VE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT YOU LOVE THE GUY WHO MADE YOU REALIZE YOU SWUNG THAT WAY.
WHAT'S CHANGED NOW IS THAT...

MORE LIKE GETTING A FEEL OF WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT IT.
NOT LIKE A SERIOUS CONFESSION OR ANYTHING,
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING TO HIM? ABOUT YOUR SEMPAI.


IS NO GOOD.
AFTER ALL, A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING


I wish I
could tell him


That I
love him...



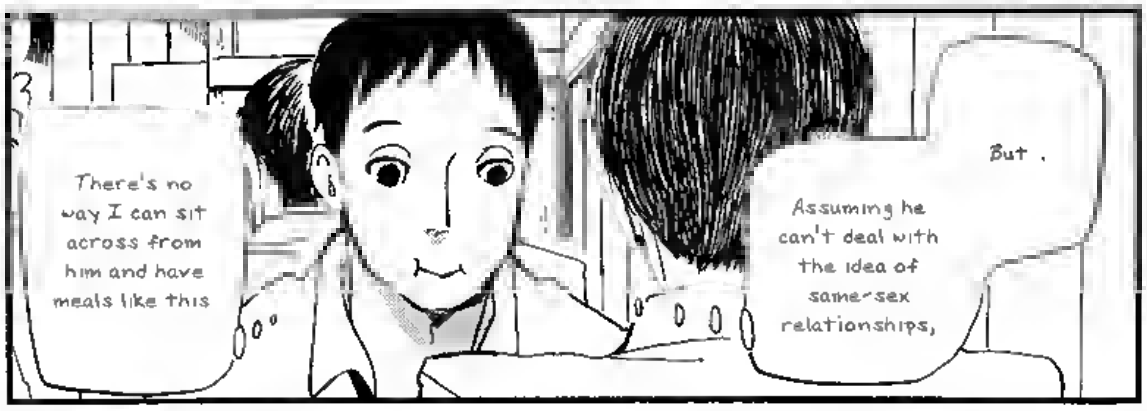
IT'S HOT AGAIN TODAY, HUH.
ANYTHING IF THERE'S BEER.
WHAT DO YOU WANNA EAT?
GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.
TOHRU-KUN.

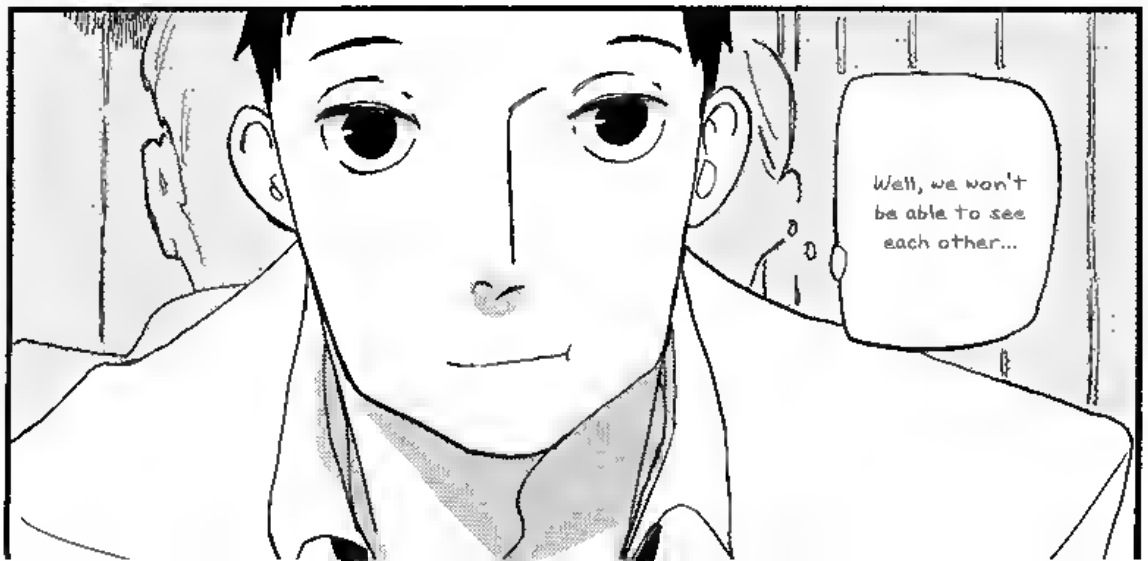
TN: Sumibiyaki = Char-Grilled

Local Specialty
Vinegar Chicken
Recommended!
300
Wings 200
Thigh 150
Heart 150
Neck 150
Skin 130
150
YOUR OFFICE IS IN TOKYO, RIGHT?
DO YOU LIVE WITH YOUR PARENTS NOW?
Yes...
I HOPED TO LIVE ON MY OWN IN TOKYO.
SO, I'LL USE THE DIVIDENDS I GOT.
YOU'VE SAVED UP MONEY?
IT MUST BE HARD WITH YOUR KANSAI EXPEDITIONS.
YES, THAT'S TRUE...
THAT'S LOVE.
HUH?
FOR HORSES.
...RIGHT.
HERE ARE YOUR STUFFED PEPPERS!
THE TABLE'S GOING TO FILL UP IN NO TIME, HUH.
THE FOOD'S GOOD HERE BUT THE PLACE IS SMALL.
MAYBE A SPACIER RESTAURANT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER.
I don't mind!
IT'S SUPER GOOD!
It's top-notch!

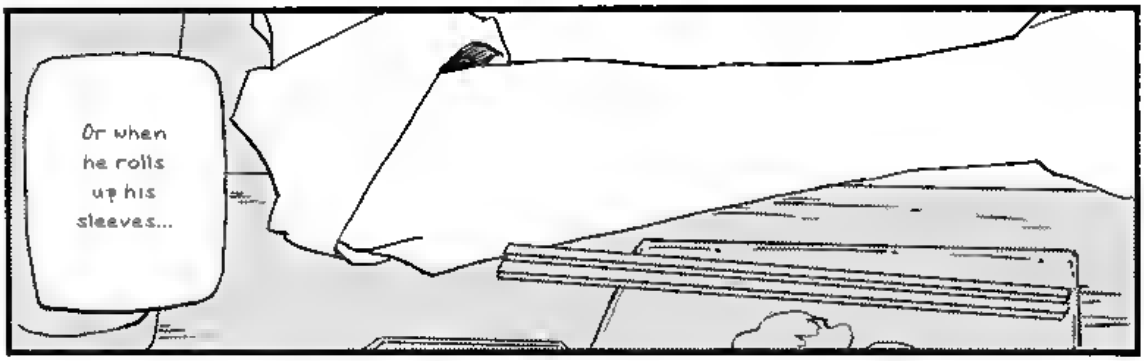
I DON'T KNOW MANY OF THEM SINCE I SELDOM SPEND TIME AROUND HERE.
I WENT WITH A RESTAURANT I REMEMBER AND LEFT IT AT THAT.
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT HASTY WITH THINGS. LIKE...
YOU FILL YOUR MOUTH 'TIL YOUR CHEEKS PUFF UP
WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR LUNCH.
Huh--
YOU SAW THAT?
BRIEFLY, ONCE...
I THINK I'D LIKE TO SEE IT AGAIN.
Haha

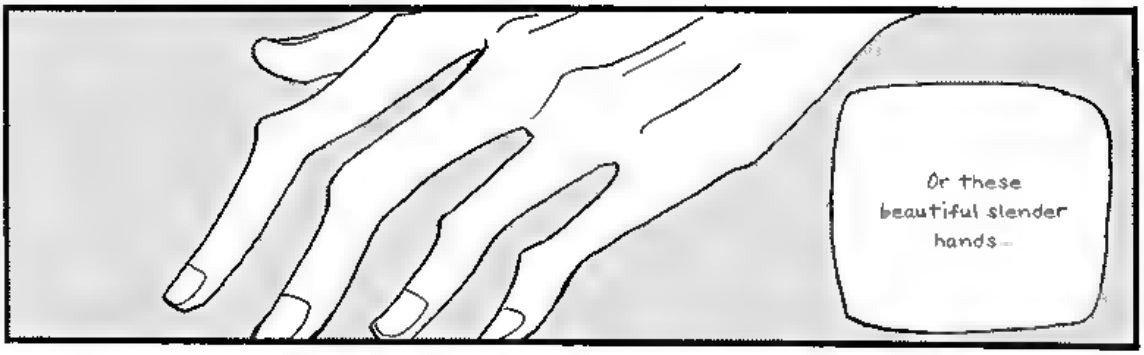
...I'll stay like some lovesick middle schooler for a while longer.
He's still feeling shy...
AT WORK, I'M OFTEN LAUGHED AT FOR LOOKING LIKE A SQUIRREL.
OH GOD, THAT'S SO EMBARRASSING.


There's no way I can sit across from him and have meals like this
But .
Assuming he can't deal with the idea of same-sex relationships,


Well, we won't be able to see each other...

And I won't be able to see the face that I love with its downcast eyes...


Or when he rolls up his sleeves...


Or these beautiful slender hands...

Or even the way he smiles at me...

WHAT?
CAN WE GET VINEGAR CHICKEN?

MAYBE I'LL USE HALF OF IT FOR A TRIP.
YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL, HUH.
WHERE'D YOU GO RECENTLY?
He has days off
Oh..
I SPENT THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS IN TAIWAN.
NICE!
ANY PICTURES?

TOHRU-KUN, WHEN YOU START LIVING ON YOUR OWN, LET ME GIVE YOU A FUTON.
I'LL PAY FOR IT!
NOOO, I WANT YOU TO LET ME.

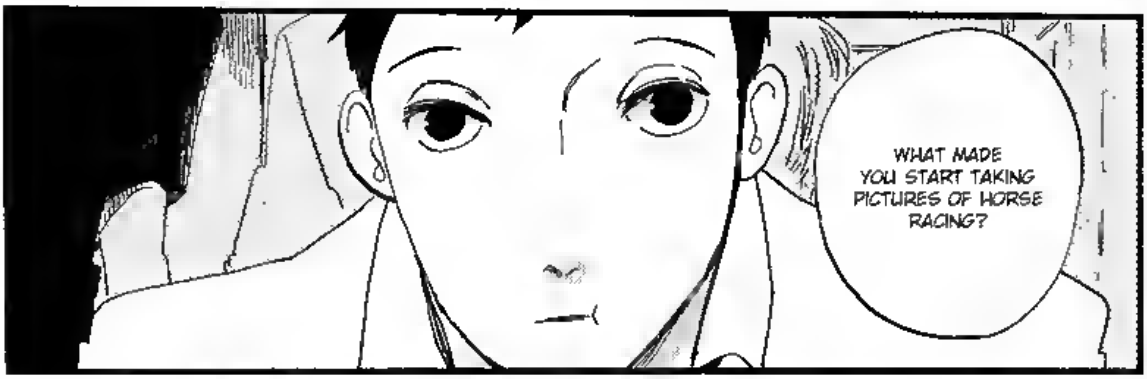
OF COURSE.
Bacon 150
Local Specialty
Vinegar Chicken
JUST KEEP ORDERING.

IT WAS A VERY HEFTY PAYOUT, YOU KNOW.
SAVE IT, PLEASE.
GRILLED VINEGAR CHICKEN AND MUSHROOMS, PLEASE.

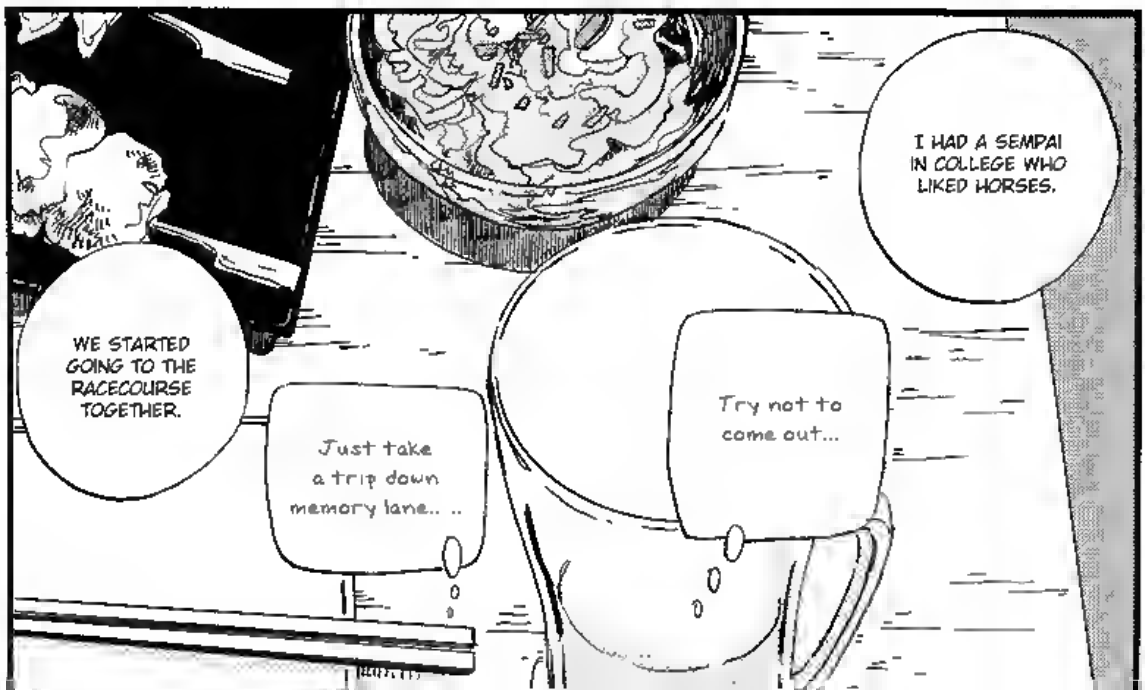
T/N a type of hostess bar

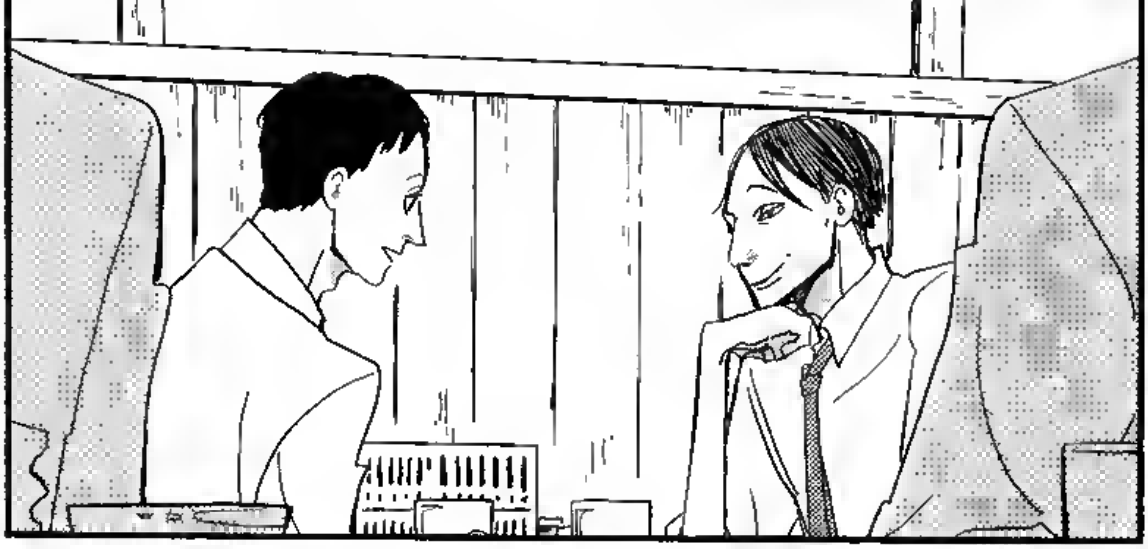
DON'T GROW UP LIKE ME, OKAY?
ISN'T IT LIKE THIS WHEN YOU'RE SINGLE?
THE YOUNG GIRLS TAKE UP THE CHANCE WHEN THEY CAN.
WELL, IT'S BORING TO GO OUT THERE ALONE.
AND THERE'S A LOT OF GOOD FOOD.
THEY'LL COAX BRAND-NAME STUFF FROM YOU, BUT WE ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY.
LIKE A GIVE-AND-TAKE, YOU KNOW.
MY BOSS TOLD ME I WON'T BE POPULAR WITH GIRLS.
...ISN'T THAT LIKE MY TRIPS TO THE RACECOURSE?

YOU'VE GOT YOUR CAMERA, DON'T YOU?
IT'S A PRAISEWORTHY HOBBY.


WHAT MADE YOU START TAKING PICTURES OF HORSE RACING?

UM... WELL...


I HAD A SEMPAI IN COLLEGE WHO LIKED HORSES.
WE STARTED GOING TO THE RACECOURSE TOGETHER.
Just take a trip down memory lane... ..
Try not to come out...



AND THAT WAS THAT.
AND IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THAT, I WANTED TO TRY TAKING PICTURES OF THE HORSES.....

DIDN'T YOU EVER CONFESS?
ha ha ha
NO, I DIDN'T!
SEMPAI HAD A GIRLFRIEND!
UM.....
THAT'S YOUTH FOR YOU.
IT'S LIKE THAT HORSE RACING COMMERCIAL THEY'RE DOING NOW.
I CAN SEE IT.
A DATE AT THE RACECOURSE, HUH.
SO, YOU LIKED THAT SEMPAI OF YOURS?

GUESS IT WAS THE RACECOURSE.
I SEE.
AH.....
WELL...
THAT'S RIGHT.
...THIS SEMPAI OF YOURS WAS A MAN?

...I'LL HAVE THE SAME.
AND FOR YOU, BUDDY?
A HIGHBALL, THEN.
SIRS, YOUR GLASSES ARE EMPTY. WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER ANOTHER?

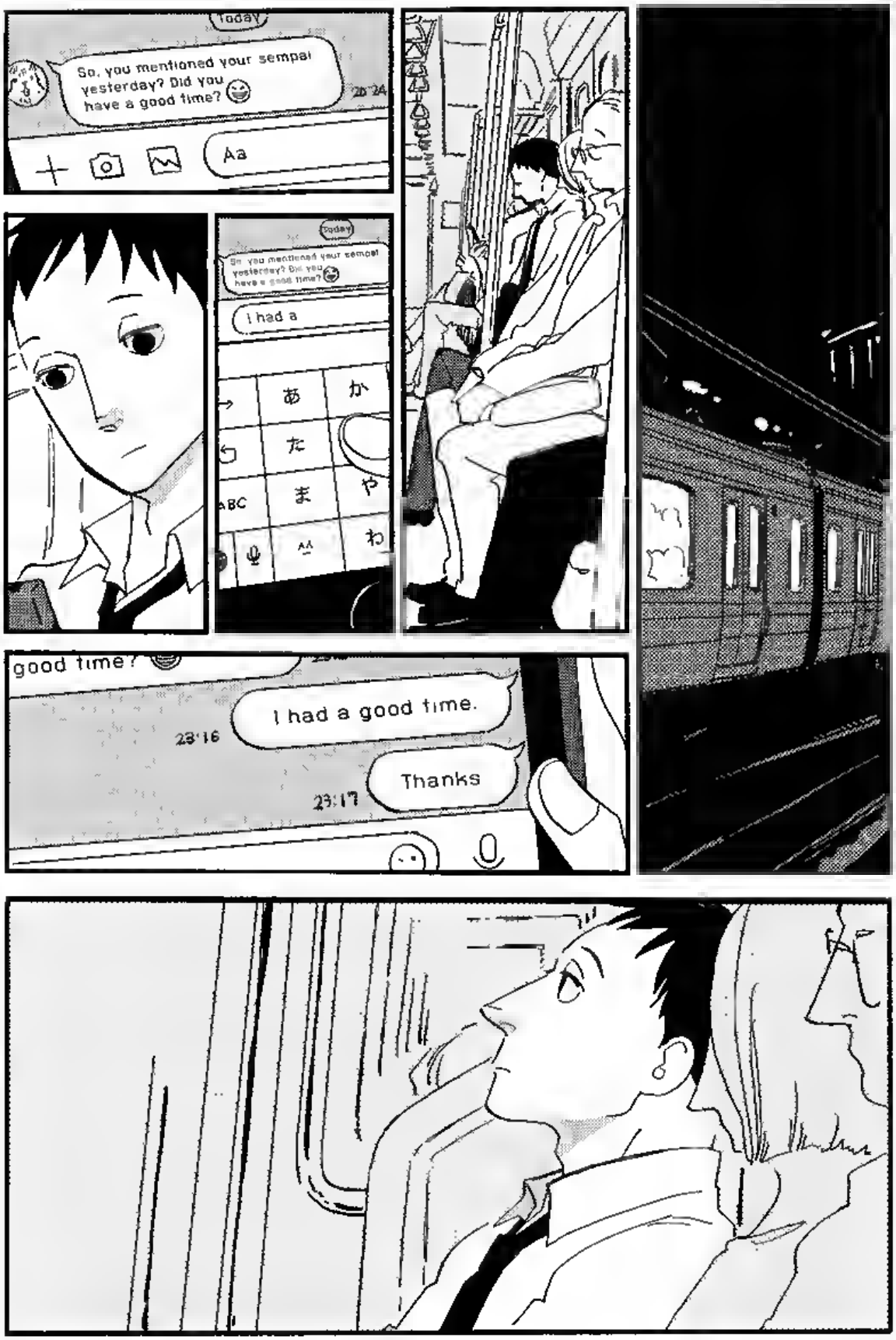
TWO HIGHBALLS.

HAAAAA!
Chug
...THE VINEGAR CHICKEN'S GOOD, HUH!
YEAH.
IT'S GOOD HERE.
YOUR HIGHBALLS, SIRS.
THEN...
DO YOU HAVE A SIGNIFICANT OTHER NOW?
...COURSE I DON'T.
GOING TO THE RACECOURSE KEEPS ME BUSY!

HAHAHA.
AH, BUT YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY.
SAME WITH THIS OLD MAN.
I SEE.

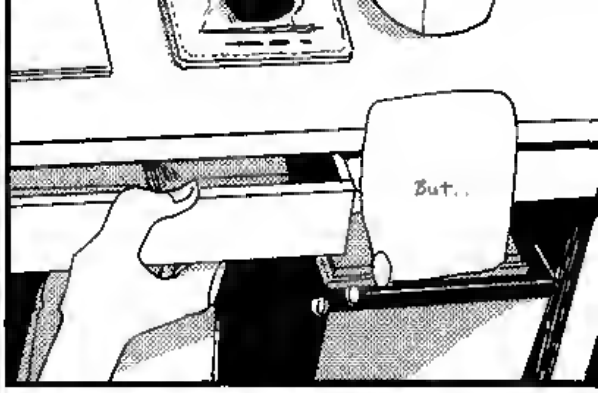
DON'T JUST BE A MIDDLE-AGED DEADBEAT LIKE ME.

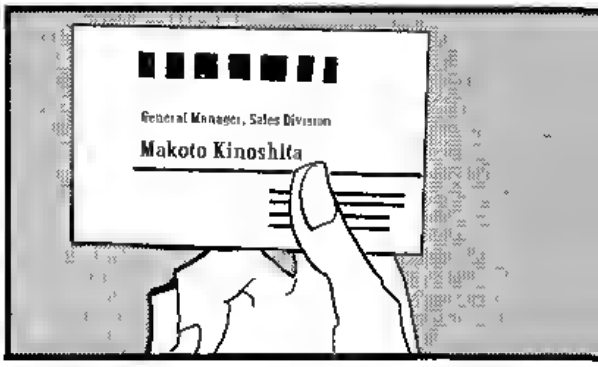
WELL, ANYWAY...


Today
So, you mentioned your sempai yesterday? Did you have a good time?
20:24
Aa
Today
So, you mentioned your sempai yesterday? Did you have a good time?
I had a
あ
か
た
ABC
ま
や
わ
good time?
23:16
I had a good time.
23:17
Thanks

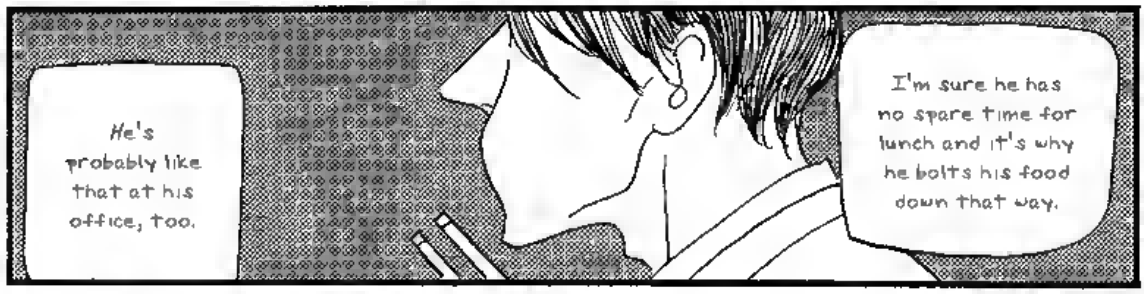
Savings Target
¥800K!!
. He doesn't talk about work at all.
I'm pretty sure he's still being exploited.
click
CLICK
It's about time to go real estate hopping
2F
2
LAUNDRY
STORAGE
LIVING ROOM
.It's summer racing soon
..Will Makoto-san still be on his Sunday business trips even in the summer?

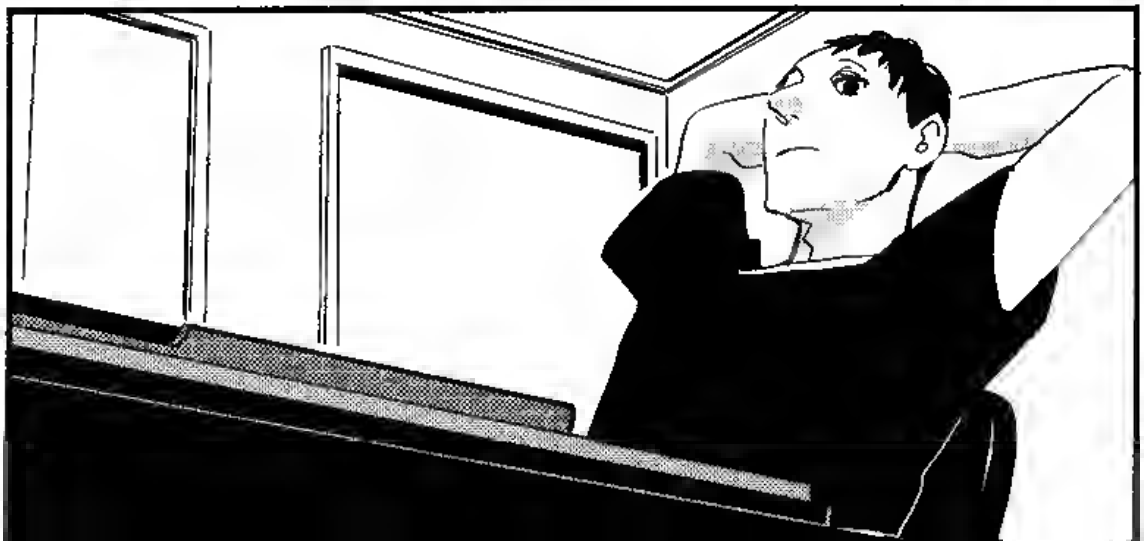
HE'S THE HEAD.
HE SAYS HE TRAVELS EVERY WEEK.

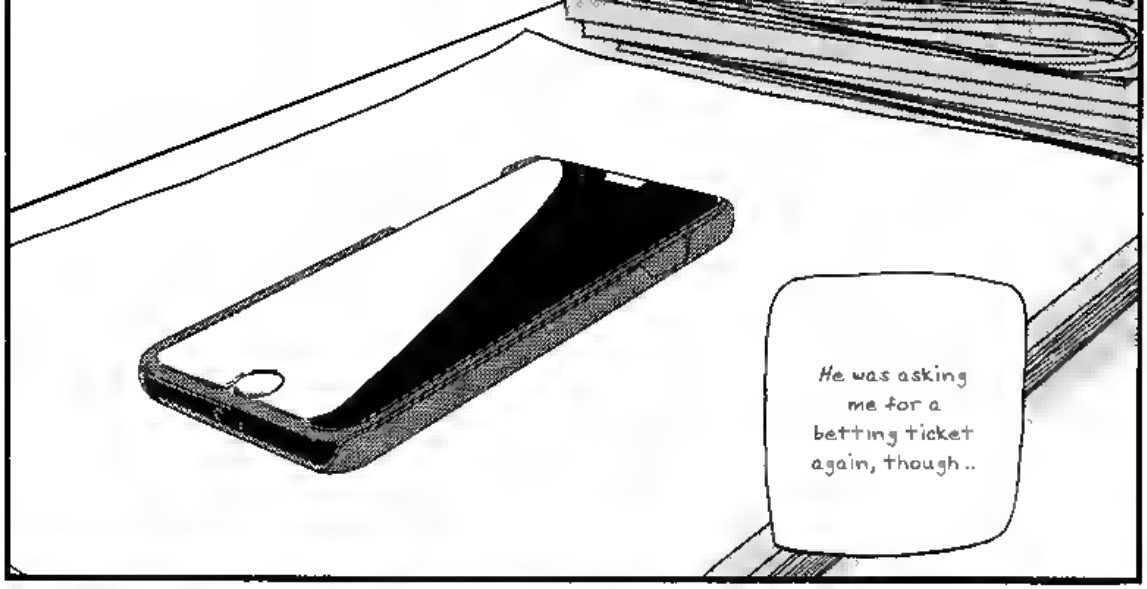

But..


General Manager, Sales Division
Makoto Kinoshita

creak


He's probably like that at his office, too.
I'm sure he has no spare time for lunch and it's why he bolts his food down that way.



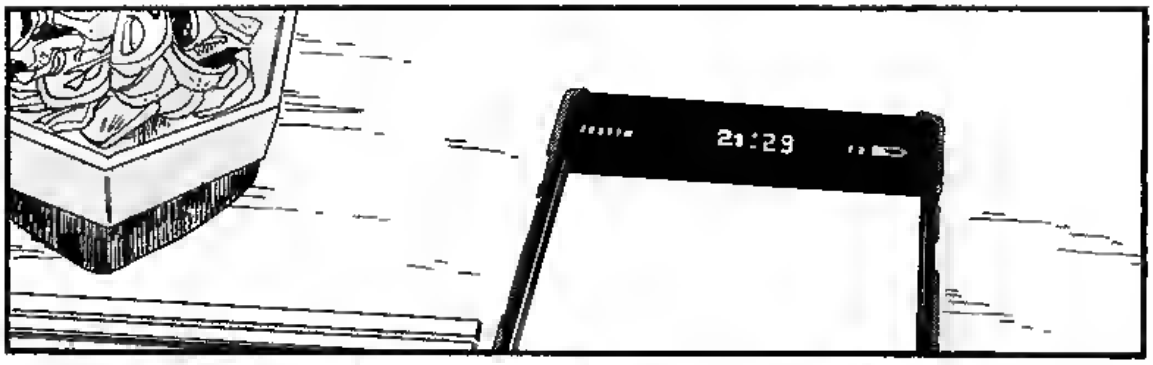

He was asking me for a betting ticket again, though..

sigh

WHERE ARE YOU GOING THIS SUMMER?
FOR SUMMER HORSE RACING, THAT IS.

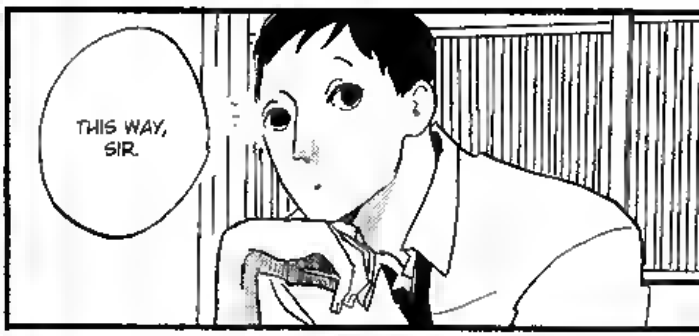
I'll check out the real estate agency on the way home today.
ping
YOU'LL BE ON OVERTIME AND BE ON-CALL ALL THE TIME.
DON'T MOVE NEAR HERE EVEN IF IT'S PRACTICAL.
I'VE GOT THE WHOLE MOVING THING!
I'LL BE ADULTING.
FUKU-SHIMA?
SEND ME UNI.
YOU SHOULD GO TO HAKODATE.
Today
How about a drink if you're free today?
17:33
Aa

Soba House
"I leave it to you once you get to the storefront."
WILL YOU BE WAITING FOR YOUR COMPANION FIRST?
I ORDERED.....
...Well, not like I could hold off ordering
I'm sure ..he's been crazy busy with work.


21:29

THANKS FOR CHOOSING A PLACE NEAR THE OFFICE.
I HEARD THERE ARE MANY GOOD RESTAURANTS AROUND HERE.

BEER FOR YOU BOTH?
YUP...
Beer
Medium Draft Bottle Beer
TWO DRAFTS.


THIS WAY, SIR.

I MADE YOU WAIT FOR OVER AN HOUR.....
I HAD A DRINK FIRST.
I'M SO SORRY!

TOHRU-KUN... I'M SORRY!
EVEN THOUGH I INVITED YOU...

LIKEWISE.
...WELL, I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT.
MAKOTO -SAN?
I LEAVE IT TO YOU.
TWO DRAFTS AND YOUR APPETIZER.
Tempura
Vege- table
fish
THEN, STEWED BEEF STREAKS
AND ROLLED PAN-FRIED EGGS.
TWO OF THE PRIME SASHIMI AND FRIED FISH BALLS.
Let's see
WHAT WILL YOU BE HAVING?

ARE YOU..... HAVING A HARD TIME AT WORK?

YEAH.....
KIND OF. IT'S BEEN HECTIC.
IT GETS TIRING SO,
I THOUGHT GETTING A DRINK WOULD BE NICE...

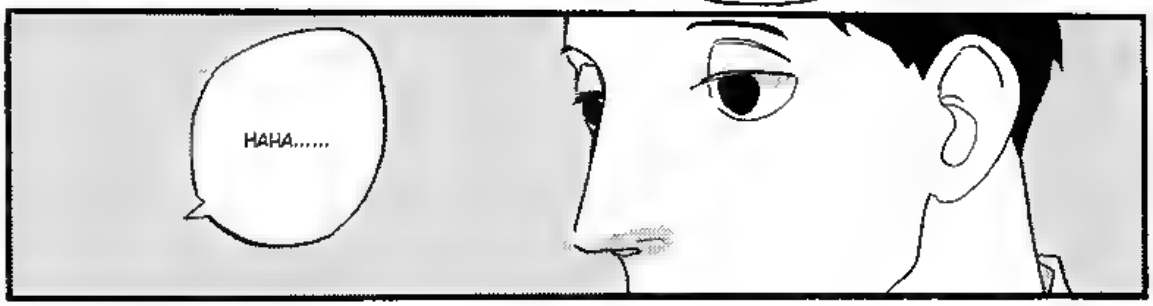
I'M NOT DOING THAT TODAY.
AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO TELL ME A STORY ABOUT YOUR HORSES.
AND YOU CAME TO MIND, TOHRU-KUN.
I ENJOY HAVING DRINKS WITH YOU.

IT'S WHY I GOT A PRIVATE ROOM.
I WANT TO HEAR YOU TALK, MAKOTO-SAN.

I'LL LISTEN TO THEM.
WHAT YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM THE MOST,

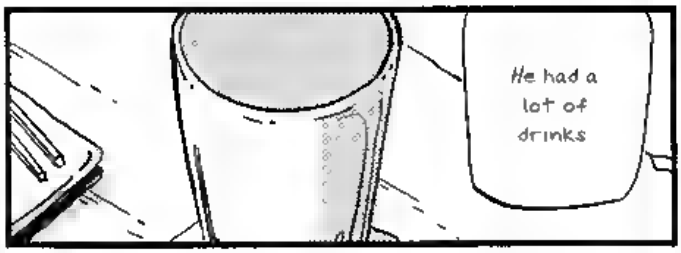
THAT IS IF YOU DON'T MIND
THAT IT'S ME!

I'D HAVE TO TELL YOU IF YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T I?
THAT'S NOT FAIR.


HAHA.....

.....IT'S GOING TO GET UGLY AROUND THE PRESIDENT.

T/N: A real problem in Japanese workplaces. Subordinates are treated harshly by bosses but they can't complain at all

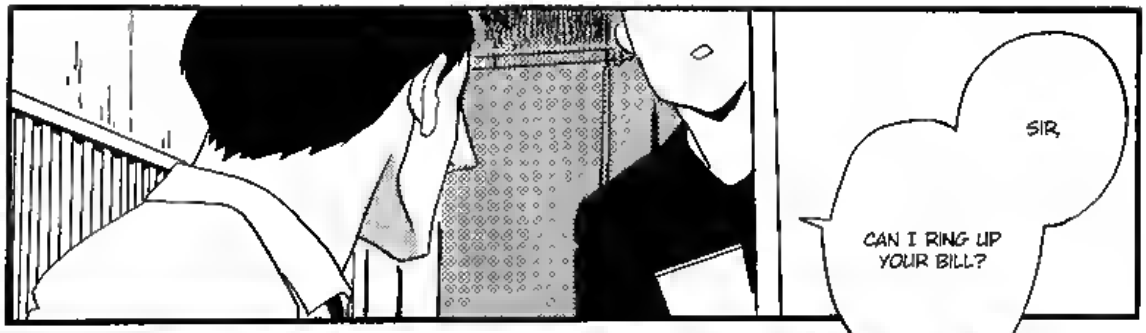


AND I'M THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT...

And he talked

From what I could follow with Makoto-san's story, any way you looked at it,

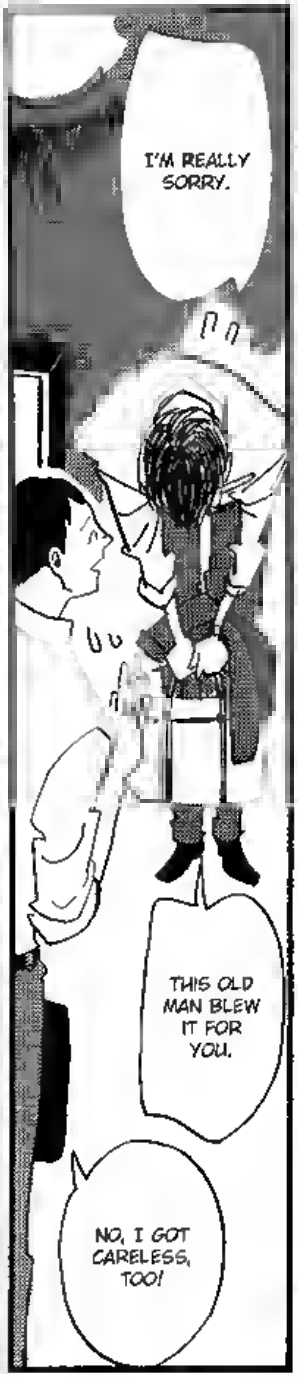
it seemed like unfounded power harassment directed at him.


SIR,
CAN I RING UP YOUR BILL?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, YOUNG MAN?!
LET'S SPLIT IT UP FOR TODAY.
I'LL FOOT IT!
RATHER THAN THAT, CAN YOU STILL TAKE THE TRAIN, TOHRU-KUN?

AAHHH!
OH, SHOOT!
Route search!
NO GOOD!

00:12
AH.....


I'M REALLY SORRY.
THIS OLD MAN BLEW IT FOR YOU.
NO, I GOT CARELESS, TOO!

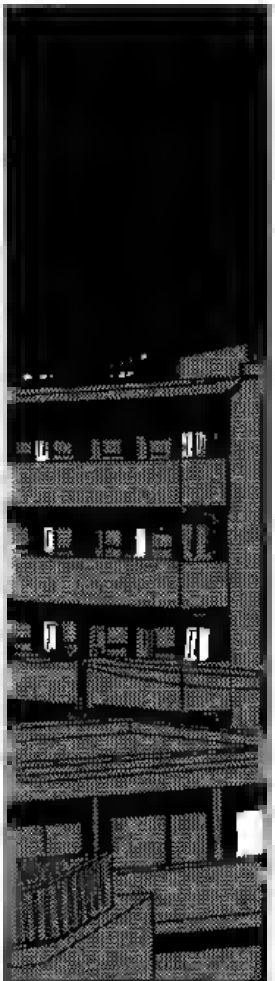
YOU CAN STAY AT MY PLACE!
IT'S CRAMPED AND MESSY THOUGH!
Eep!
I'LL GO TO A CAPSULE HOTEL!
There are net cafes, too.

MY HOUSE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

IT'S RIGHT NEXT TO THE OFFICE.
I'M ON-CALL ON DAY-OFFS MOST OF THE TIME SO...
IT'S CONVENIENT~!

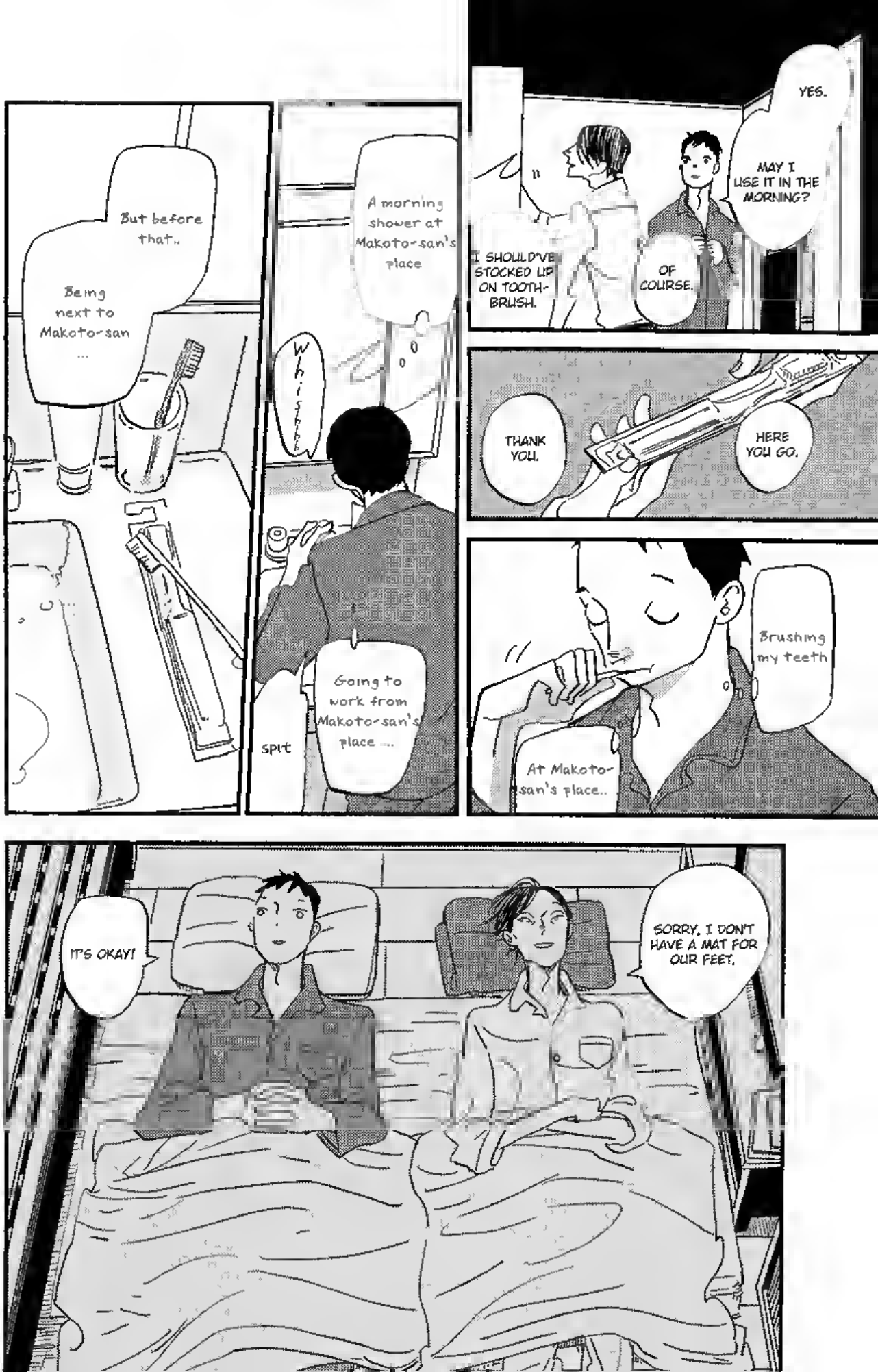
Let's see.
PAJAMA
PAJAMA...
Pajama~
No, just saying pajama is normal

I'M REALLY SORRY.
IT'S A STUDIO APARTMENT FULL OF TRASH.



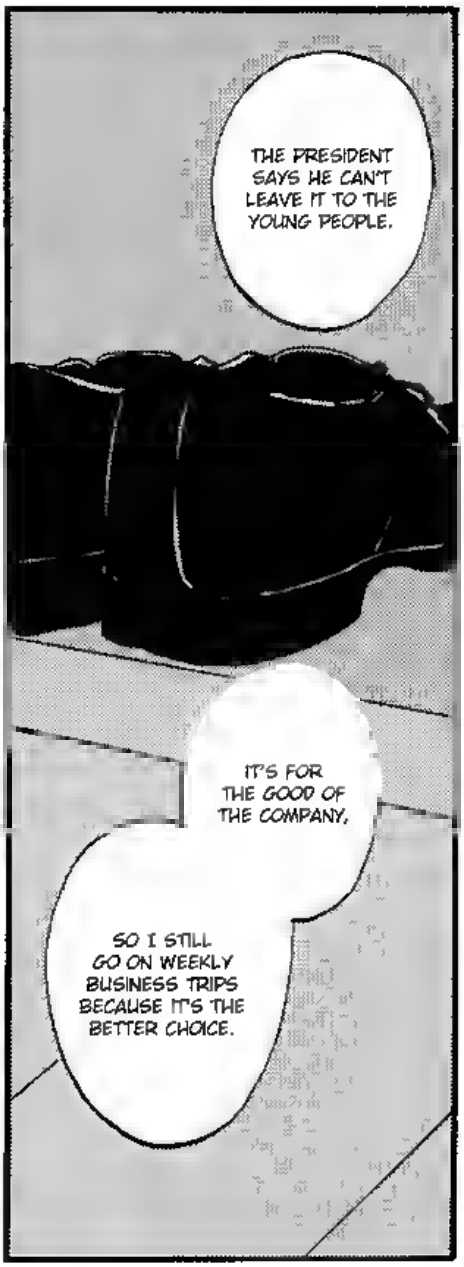
THERE IT IS.
HERE.
I'M BORROWING THIS.

WE COULD TRY SLEEPING LIKE SARDINES IN A CAN!
I CAN'T HAVE YOU SLEEP ON THE FLOOR!
BUT YOU'RE TIRED, MAKOTO-SAN.
WELL, HOW ABOUT WE BOTH USE IT?
TOHRU-KUN, YOU'RE NOT A RESTLESS SLEEPER, ARE YOU?
IT'S YOURS.
THAT'S ALSO A PRODUCT WE SELL.
BUT I DON'T HAVE A SPARE FUTON.
YOU TAKE THE BED.
I... I ACTUALLY AM.
AH, I SEE.
THEN, I'LL PLACE THE FUTON ON THE FLOOR AND MAKE AN IMPROVISED BED.
TOHRU-KUN, GO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES.
The shower is available
clack
clack
I'm changing into pajamas in Makoto-san's place....
Ah
So sooooft.
WAS THE SHOWER OKAY?

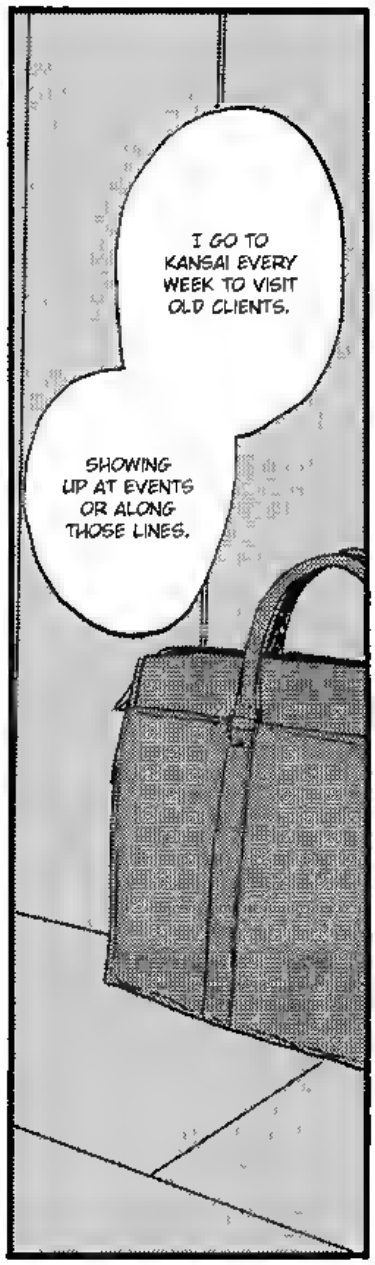

YES.
MAY I USE IT IN THE MORNING?
OF COURSE.
I SHOULD'VE STOCKED UP ON TOOTH-BRUSH.
HERE YOU GO.
THANK YOU.
Brushing my teeth
At Makoto-san's place..
A morning shower at Makoto-san's place
Whishhh
Going to work from Makoto-san's place ...
spit
But before that..
Being next to Makoto-san ...
SORRY, I DON'T HAVE A MAT FOR OUR FEET.
IT'S OKAY!

...THESE PAJAMA FEELS COMFY!
I THINK I'LL BUY IT FOR MY MOTHER!
And my dad...
YOU'RE SO DUTIFUL.
YOU'RE A GOOD KID, TOHRU-KUN.
NOT AT ALL!
I WISH THERE WAS A KID LIKE YOU IN MY OFFICE, TOHRU-KUN.
OF COURSE, THEY'RE ALL GOOD KIDS NOW.
...MY PEERS ALL QUIT WITHIN A YEAR AFTER THEY JOINED THE COMPANY.
THE PREVIOUS GENERATION WAS IN CHARGE IN THOSE DAYS.
AND THEY'D HAVE US DO SALES EVERY OTHER WEEKEND, SO WE HAD FEW DAYS OFF.
RUMOR HAS IT THEY WON'T LET YOU QUIT AFTER WORKING FOR A YEAR.

NOW, IF THEY WANT TO REMAIN ON TOP, THOSE GUYS NEED TO BE VERY DETERMINED.


THE PRESIDENT SAYS HE CAN'T LEAVE IT TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE.
IT'S FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMPANY.
SO I STILL GO ON WEEKLY BUSINESS TRIPS BECAUSE IT'S THE BETTER CHOICE.

THEY'RE SMALL RETAIL STORES THAT ARE STILL TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET, YOU KNOW.

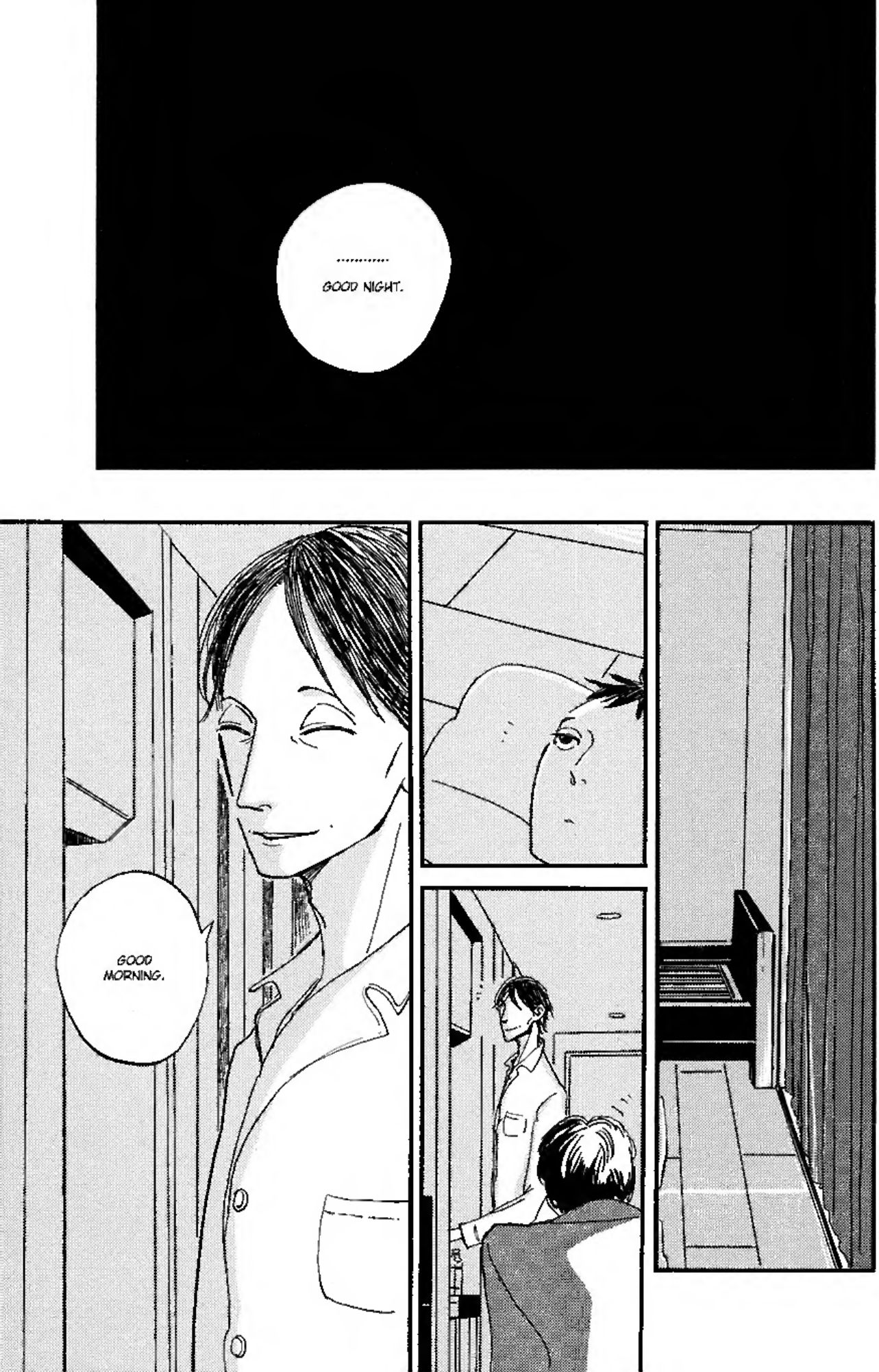

I GO TO KANSAI EVERY WEEK TO VISIT OLD CLIENTS.
SHOWING UP AT EVENTS OR ALONG THOSE LINES.

I TALKED THIS OVER WITH HIM EARLIER.
THAT IF HE COULD JUST...
SOFTEN HIS TONE TO THE EMPLOYEES FOR A BIT,
THEY'LL BE MORE MOTIVATED...
AND I WON'T HAVE TO BE SO WORRIED...

AND I WON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT WANTING TO QUIT.

.....THANK YOU FOR TODAY.

GOOD NIGHT.
I want to hug him


.....
GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD MORNING.

GOOD MORNING...!

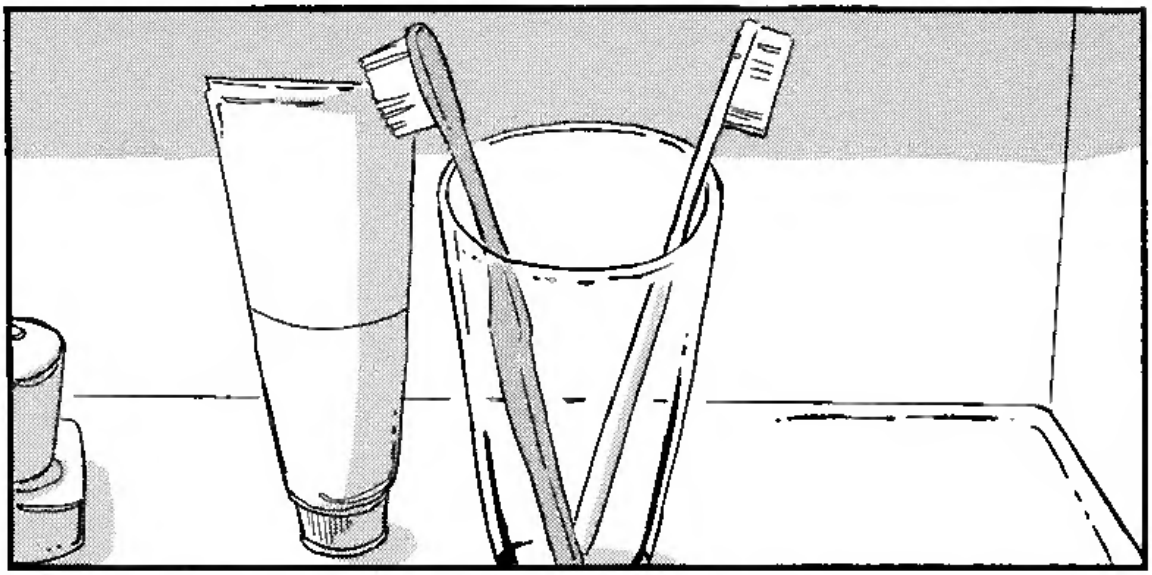
I USUALLY DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH IN THE MORNINGS BUT...

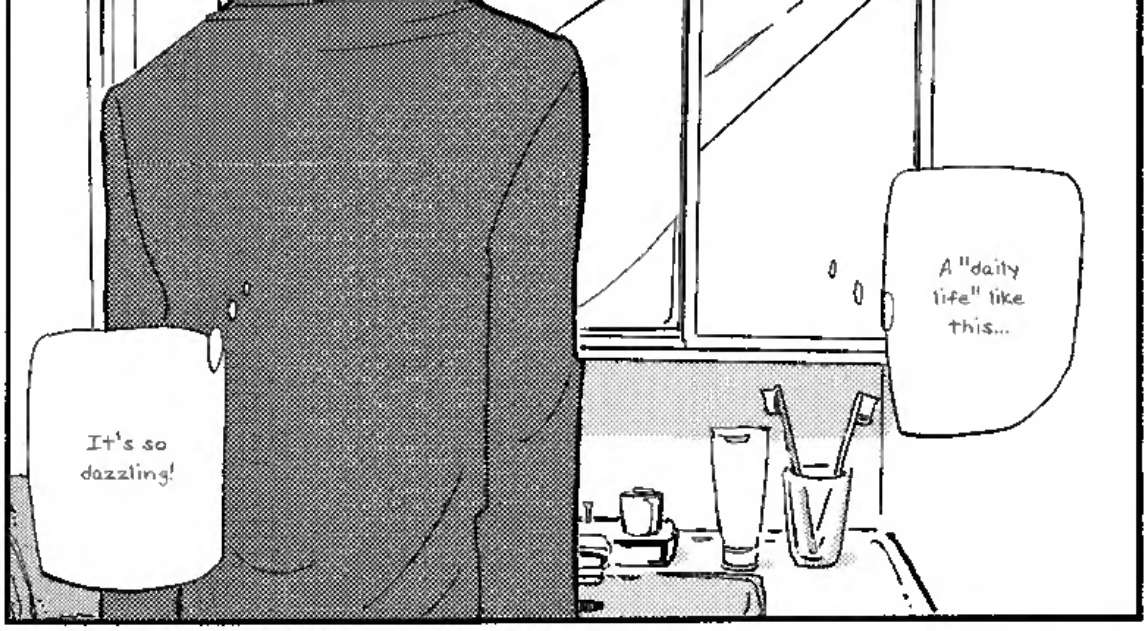
I'M FEELING A LOT MORE REFRESHED TODAY,
EVEN THOUGH I'VE HAD ONE HELL OF A DRINK.

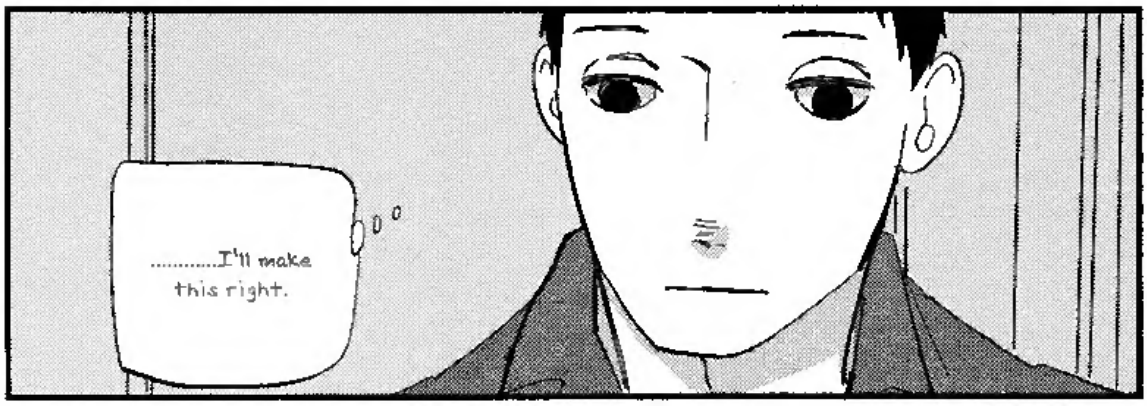
THAT MIGHT BE THANKS TO YOU, TOHRU-KUN.

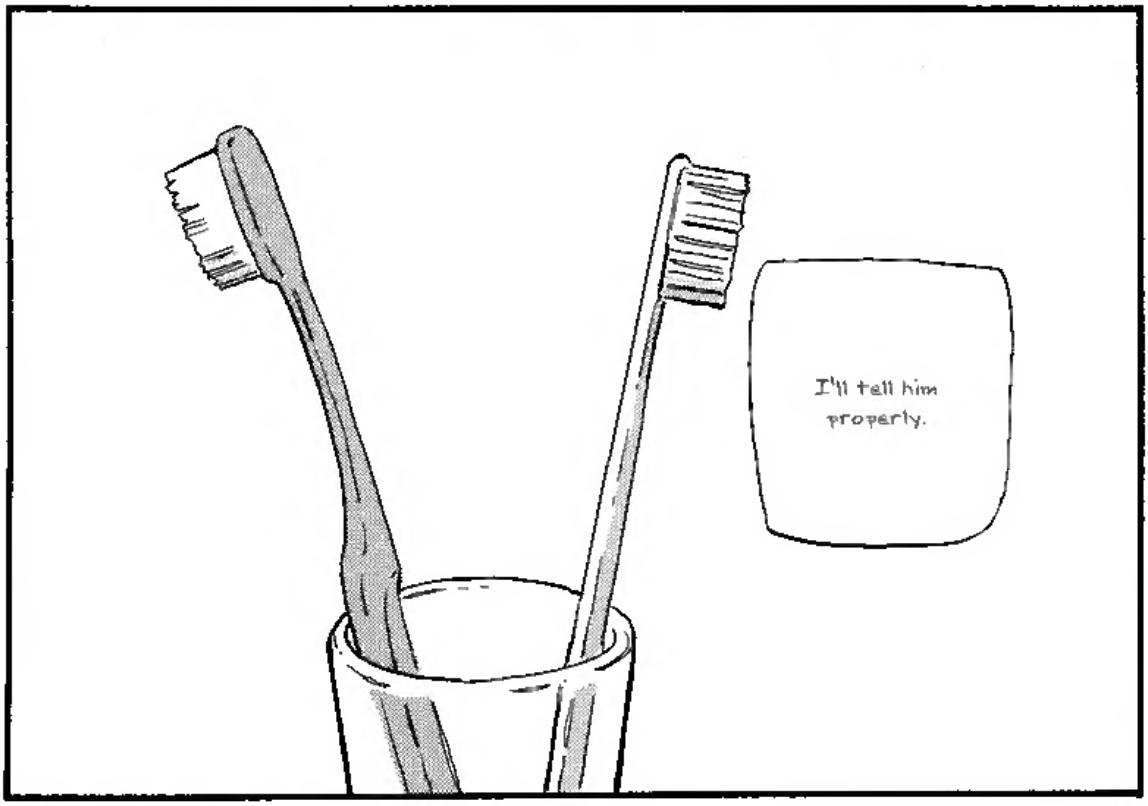
That's one more...
Makoto-san's first "Good Morning".....!
IS BREAD OKAY?
Breakfast .....!
Y-Y-Y-YES.

K-CHAK
YOU SLEPT WELL, HUH.
HAHAHA
.....
I want to hug him.....
I'M BORROWING YOUR SHOWER!
I'LL BRING YOU A TOWEL.




A "daily life" like this...
It's so dazzling!


.....I'll make this right.


I'll tell him properly.